"WHAT WE'VE HEARD"

INTERIM FINDINGS

OF THE

TASK FORCE ON NATIVE FORESTRY

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1.0 PROFILE OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS

1. Mr. Harold Derickson - Chairman of the Task Force, President/Manager of the Intertribal Forestry Association of B.C.

2. Mr. Richard Watts - Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council southern co-chairman, has considerable experience in Native economic development and silviculture contracting.

3. Chief Donald Cyril Moses B.A.- Lower Nicola Band member, has extensive experience in economic development planning and management of Native business ventures.

4. Mr. Thomas Pierre - Forestry advisor to the Carrier - Sekani Tribal Council, has extensive experience in the forest industry with Tanizul Timber Ltd..

5. Mr. Jack Toovey - Registered Professional Forester with extensive experience in the forest industry.

6. Mr. Peter Levy - Registered Professional Forester, Manager of Native Affairs for the Ministry of Forests.

7. Mr. Bob Christie - Registered Professional Forester with extensive forest industry.experience in the interior of B.C..

2.0 BACKGROUND

On September 25, 1990, Forests Minister Claude Richmond, Native Affairs Minister Jack Weisgerber and Harold Derickson President of the Intertribal Forestry Association of British Columbia, announced the formation of the Task Force on Native Forestry.

The mandate of the Task Force is to:

1. Recommend ways to increase Native participation in the forestry sector,
2. Address Native participation from an economic and community development perspective,
3. Consider:
   - forest tenures on Crown Land
   - joint ventures with forest companies
   - training and skill development
   - management expertise
   - sources of capital
   - contracts with government and companies for silviculture and forest protection
   - employment in the forestry sector
   - participation in resource management planning

The specific objectives of the Task Force are to:

1. Document current participation and interest by Native people.
2. Document programs and opportunities currently available to Native people.
3. Identify limitations to participation by Native people.
4. Recommend strategies to increase Native participation.

To achieve the above objectives the Task Force was directed to consult with Tribal Councils, Bands, Native individuals, industry associations and government agencies involved in forestry. The Task Force was further directed to report to the Minister of Forests, Minister of Native Affairs and the Intertribal Forestry Association by July 1991. The final report will be made available to the public within 90 days of submission to the government and the IFABC.

The purpose of this summary of interim findings is to document and circulate the submissions made to the Task Force to April 1, 1991. The submissions to the Task Force after that date will be included in the final report.

2.0 HISTORY

The history of Native participation in the forestry sector illustrates how government policy has put the interests of non-Natives ahead of the First peoples of British Columbia. Where once Native people had jurisdiction over all the forests of the province, they now live on 1600 reserves, with a total area of 338,000 hectares, which is one third of one percent of the total land area of the province. Native people have one Tree Farm Licence, three Forest Licences, some Woodlot Licences, a minor interest in sawmilling and participate to some degree in silvicultural activities. Native people now control less than one half of one percent of the forest land base of the province.

Forests were an Indian way of life long before European settlement and the evolution of the modern forest industry. Since time immemorial, forests have provided Indian people with food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, transportation, medicines and spiritual and emotional security.

Before 1874, Native peoples had very little to do with colonial or Dominion laws even though the impact of foreign cultures and disease had been extensive. Joseph Trutch, the Lieutenant Governor at the time, dramatically altered the situation. The Land Act of that year stated that any male person who was a British subject could pre-empt 320 acres of land as a settler. Indians could do this only with the permission of the Lieutenant Governor. He did not grant permission but was instrumental in setting up the reserve system that created the smallest reserves per family in Canada and shut Indian people out of pre-empting or owning resources, including forest lands. The reserve system was formally adopted in the 1880s as a federal government responsibility and since then Indian people have been caught between two levels of government, neither of which has shown much, if any, interest in Native forestry until recently.

Native people were much more actively involved in the early history of the forest industry than they are today. At that time labour was generally scarce and logging camps and mills were smaller and more decentralized, located closer to Native communities. Now logging and milling centres are mainly located in larger, non-Native communities and there are fewer jobs requiring more specialized skills. These factors have largely shut Native people out of the industry. An example of this situation that has occurred over the last 25 years involves the Nuxalk Nation of Bella Coola. At one time they had sixty-five families supported by logging jobs near Bella Coola. Now non-Native crews are flown in from Vancouver, wood is barged to mills to the south and there are at most six people working part time. This has had a major impact on that community.

The situation is little better than it was in 1874 from the Native perspective. Indian people are still on reserves and although discrimination has theoretically been eliminated, Indian people are predominantly shut out of the forest industry and forest resource management. There is little unallocated timber left, necessary technical and professional skills are lacking, union membership and seniority are necessary in many areas to get a job and large cash deposits are needed to bid on silviculture contracts.

This Task Force cannot undo 200 years of injustice, nor can it solve or deal with the larger political issues such as Aboriginal Title and Land Claims. However, it can look at new ways to involve Native people in training and jobs and look at ways that companies can work in joint ventures and co-management with Bands and Tribal Councils. Communications can improve, plans can be more inclusive of Indian interests and Indian communities can again begin to exert some influence over the forests that they once owned. Hopefully, the Task Force can assist in creating a situation where history does not have to repeat itself.

3.0 INTERIM FINDINGS

The following interim findings are a summary of the main issues and recommendations that the Task Force heard up to and including the meeting in Merritt on March 5, 1991. A more detailed summary of "What We've Heard" is found in Appendix 1 of this document.

3.1 TENURES

3.1.1 Lands Claims

Although not within the mandate of the Task Force, the question of Land Claims and forestry was brought up at almost every meeting. Native people see the successful resolution of the issue of Adequate Land Entitlement as the key mechanism for the long term sustainability of Native communities. The access to various forestry tenures is seen as the way to control and use resources within traditional territories in the short term.

Cariboo, Carrier - Sekani, Chilcotin - Ulkatcho - Kluskus Nations and Nicola Valley Tribal Councils

3.1.2 Forest Tenures

The fact that there is only one Native Tree Farm Licence in the Province was one of the main concerns voiced by Native people.

Major land tenures are seen as a mechanism to create jobs and economic development. It was said that only with a secure tenure can funding be accessed for mills and logging equipment that is necessary to be successful in the forest industry. Woodlot Licences are not seen as a viable alternative even though they can assist a family or small enterprise.

There is considerable frustration in the fact that Native applications for major tenures have run into the problem of a lack of Allowable Annual Cut under the current system. In most Timber Supply Areas Native people want a long term timber supply.

Just as with a non-Native corporation, the size of a tenure must be large enough to create a viable economic unit. New Native Tree Farm Licences would take a more "wholistic" approach to forest management as well as be economically viable.

Chilcotin-Ulkatcho-Kluskus Nations, Nicola Valley and Cariboo Tribal Councils

3.2 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

3.2.1 Professional Foresters

University trained Native foresters are needed to assist Bands in all areas of forestry. To be successful the learning situation must be similar to the Native Indian Teacher Education Program where Native people are culturally supported within the university environment. It was suggested that a School of Native Forestry should be established at the University of Northern B.C.

Stellaquo Band, Chilcotin - Ulkatcho - Kluskus Nations Tribal Council

3.2.2 Technicians

There is a chronic need for Native forestry technicians who can work in Native communities to develop employment programs and assist in forestry development. The Nicola Valley Institute of Technology should be supported and more Native training centers opened in other areas of the province.

Stellaquo Band, Fort George Band, Nicola Valley Tribal Council

3.2.3 Management Training

It was pointed out that one of the critical aspects of any organization is expertise in management and this is particularly true in a forestry operation. Training is needed and companies can assist Bands and Tribal Councils to develop the required skills. Joint

ventures and internship training programs can be mechanisms to develop management skills in forestry.

Stellaquo Band, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Scott Paper Ltd.

3.2.4 On the Job

Many companies indicated that they either have or are willing to assist Bands and Tribal Councils to train people especially in silviculture. Course material and organized training programs would be very useful to implement this program.

Canoe Creek Band, Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd., Scott Paper Ltd.

3.3 SILVICULTURE

3.3.1 Contracting

Silviculture contracting is seen by many Bands as an important opportunity to employ Band members in jobs that can be done through Native contractors. Often Bands and individual Native contractors do not have the capital for bid deposits. Larger, outside silviculture companies often have the organization and experience to underbid a local Native contractor. There should be more direct silviculture contracts in traditional territories to Native Bands. A number of companies said that they would favour Native employment in silviculture but at present there is still a lack of understanding of the cultural needs and training required in all aspects of silviculture and contracting.

International Forest Products Ltd., Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Fletcher Challenge Ltd., Nak'azdli Band, Nimpkish Band, Kyuquot Band, Tanizul Timber Ltd.

3.3.2 Forest Service Jobs

The Forest Service had a Native Orientation Training Program last year but it was not fully implemented because of the hiring policies of the B.C.G.E.U.. This program should be continued as it is a first step towards Native involvement in the Forest Service.

District Managers, Ministry of Forests, Stellaquo Band

3.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3.4.1 Economic Self Sufficiency

The overall purpose of Native economic development in the forestry sector is to address the critical needs of the Native communities in terms of local employment. Many Bands indicated that the very high unemployment rates on reserves exacerbated other social problems such as substance abuse, family problems and welfare dependency. Meaningful job creation and economic self sufficiency are two of the major issues of concern to Native peoples.

Cariboo Tribal Council, Canoe Creek Band

3.4.2 Access to Capital

Bands find it difficult to finance forestry operations because of the fiduciary relationship with the federal government. Bands need assistance in the short term to obtain financing. Long term tenures will provide the equity needed to form viable economic ventures. The Indian Act continues to be an impediment to Native economic development.

Stellaquo Band, Carrier - Sekani Tribal Council, Kwakuitl District Council

3.4.3 Hiring Policies and Union Issues

Native people were at one time much more involved in the forest industry than they are today. Part of the reason for the decline in local employment is that it is common practice for crews to be flown in from more populated, non-Native centers. Also, the IWA and companies insist on continuity of employment where some Native people, particularly on the coast, favour more seasonal employment. In general, industry hiring policies have not favoured local Native employment. The union clause in the contracting agreements on the coast make it more difficult for companies to subcontract to Bands.

Kwakiutl Tribal Council, Nimpkish Band, Fletcher Challenge Ltd.

3.4.4 Joint Ventures

Bands that have natural resources and a labour force could form a joint venture with a non-Native forest company which would provide management skills, job training, marketing and financing. This kind of business relationship must be organized on a long term

basis and will require mutual trust and objectives. The forest companies and Native communities will have to share the same vision. It was suggested that a government funded business training program and a joint venture risk fund be established.

Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd., Cariboo and Carrier - Sekani Tribal Councils, Stellaquo and Nak'azdli Bands

3.5 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

3.5.1 Native Involvement in Planning

Native people want a say in the allocation of resources and the planning of the management of natural resources in traditional territories. Plans should be organized for presentation within Native communities with a participatory approach. It was suggested that an environmental review board should include Native people and other resource users to review all forestry development plans. Planning must be on a fully integrated and sustainable basis.

Nak'azdli Band, Treaty 8 Tribal Association, District Managers, Ministry of Forests, Dave Zirnhelt, MLA, Mid-Island and Cariboo Tribal Councils

3.5.2 Co-Management with Companies in Traditional Territories

A number of Native organizations and forest companies expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of co-management of resources within traditional Native territories. Any such relationship will require mutual trust and cultural sensitivity for all parties concerned.

Carrier - Sekani, Shuswap Nation and Nicola Valley Tribal Councils, Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd., Scott Paper Ltd.

3.5.3 Protection of Traditional Values

Particularly in the Northern part of the province Native people rely on trapping not only for income generation but to maintain their traditional way of life. Since large scale forest development is now impacting on this region special considerations must be given to preserving the traditional way of life or providing acceptable alternatives. Native people often see forests differently than non-Natives and these values must be respected through the resource planning process. Mushroom picking has developed into an important income generator for many Bands and mushroom habitat must be protected.

Chemainus Tribe, South Island, Mid-Island, Chilcotin - Ulkatcho - Kluskus and Treaty 8 Tribal Councils

3.5.4 Communication

There needs to be effective communication between Native Bands and Tribal Councils and the Forest Service and industry. There is a definite need for more understanding between all parties involved in resource planning. Communication is not only needed to exchange ideas but to begin to develop trust between two cultures.

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, District Managers with Ministry of Forests, Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Treaty 8 Tribal Association, Dave Zirnhelt, MLA

3.5.5 Fire Protection

Fire protection crews provide a good opportunity for Native people to be more involved in forestry and to create employment. Native people have been effective on firefighting crews throughout the province and this training program for Unit Crews should be expanded.

Nicola Valley Tribal Council, District Managers, Ministry of Forests

3.6 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

3.6.1 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Although it is not a direct responsibility of the Task Force, the relationship of Native Bands with the federal government affects their ability to enter into tenure agreements, raise capital, and generally operate a business. This situation must be recognized in any business ventures that develop between Bands, governments and companies. The federal government should change its policy and legislation to allow Bands more flexibility in their business dealings. The Indian Act is seen as an impediment to native economic and social development.

Nicola Valley, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Councils

3.6.2 PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Native people are demanding a position at the table when resources are allocated within traditional territories. Policy should be developed to guarantee Native involvement in planning and resource allocation. The provincial government should recognize Native rights to the management of resources to alleviate the situation where confrontation is seen by many Native people as the only way to assert rights over resources.

Cariboo, Carrier - Sekani and Mid-Island Tribal Councils

APPENDIX 1

"WHAT WE'VE HEARD"

The following verbal and written submissions were made to the Task Force during the meetings held from November 19, 1990 in Prince George up to the Kamloops meeting on March 4, 1991. Other findings will be included as the meetings are held and the minutes of the meetings transcribed.

PRINCE GEORGE - NOVEMBER 19, 1990

1. Chief Peter Quaw - Fort George Band

"We are a Nation unto our own and we will need to obtain forest tenures in order to become self-sufficient. We must be an integral part of the management of the forests to ensure the survival of it."

"We are initiating an Aboriginal Forest Management Program at the College of New Caledonia."

"Six of our Band members have worked at the Shelley Sawmill for the last twenty years and only one will be hired by Northwood for their new chip facilities. We also have three families that are small scale logging on sub-contracts, and other members working at the mills and building things. The unemployment rate goes up to 85% in the winter and is around 50% in the summer."

2. Tribal Chief Justa Monk - Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

"The non-Native people who settled in our territories began to establish their kind of government and economic activities. The main economic activities involved logging and mining on large sections of our traditional territory."

"Natives were herded together then moved to small, resource poor reserves. There they attempted to live traditionally but because of the small land base they were unsuccessful. They tried to join the logging and mining work forces but they were shut out and left unemployed. Reserves soon became not communities of proud, independent people but communities of dysfunctional families, many relying on welfare to feed and cloth themselves, and on alcohol to relieve the boredom."

"Although we are now approaching the 21st century, things have changed very little. Corporations still own the resources and Natives still live on reserves and are still excluded from participating in the developing of their traditional territories. However, the provincial government's recently revised stand on the Land Claims issue may change that situation. If and when the Land Claims issue is settled, Native People will once again have control of their traditional territories. Former relationships between corporations and governments regarding rights to exploit forest, mineral and water resources will need to be changed. Another party, Indian First Nations, will be sitting at the table to discuss the use of the resources located in their territories."

"I know it is impossible to turn back the clock. We may never have a chance to live off the land again but we do have a chance to participate in the economic activities based on our natural resources so that we can make a better future for our people to have a decent life without drugs and alcohol."

"To make a Native business work you can't run it on 50,000 cubic meters to any one band. We want co-management of the resource."

"When Indian People try to get into business there are a lot of stumbling blocks like the Indian Act, provincial legislation, stumpage etc."

"You asked earlier about education and a joint venture where our people work beside professional foresters and for the companies is all part of it. People can be trained on the job."

3. **Pat Edzerza - President, Tahltan Tribal council**

"In our traditional territories we have the largest block of traplines in BC. which is an important source of income for our people. These areas are being logged and our people were promised jobs to replace trapping but they haven't happened. We are not opposed to development. We want our people to develop along with the resources. Our traditional way of life is being taken away and we want it replaced with something our people can take to the bank. Social problems have come with development and we need programs to help our people."

"What is happening in our area is that we have Native people trained in silviculture but they don't get local work because of the official policy on how the contracts are awarded. We have talked to the foresters and asked them if they are happy with our work and

they say they are more than happy but they can't give us the contract because of official policy. Outside contractors get the work and bring in their own people and our people are left out in the cold again. Policy has to change to accommodate us."

4. **Chief Robert Michell - Stellaquo Band**

"As the committee carries on its work it will have to go to each individual Band to find out what the root of their problems is. You are going to find out that the main cause of their problems is they don't have an economic base, capital or any power."

"We the Stellaquo Indian Band, the Stoney Creek Band and the Naughtley Band, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the province on a joint ventureship for a major sawmill in our area. This Memorandum of Understanding outlines an eight year licence and states that the MOF will help to train our people. It gave us an opportunity to participate in the management of these forest lands from the development planning stage to harvesting."

"As for capital, the Native people are at a disadvantage because of the involvement of the federal government. Most reserves don't have capital assets to get financing and small Bands don't have the business expertise of hired managers to advise them"

"We cannot use the land as collateral because the land does not belong to us. It is owned by the federal government."

5. **Patrick Michell - Stellaquo Band**

"The Native Indian Teacher Education Program has been successful in bringing Native people into the university environment. One of the reasons it has been so successful is because it incorporates the Native perspective into the curriculum. Native people have a different, more wholistic approach to natural resources."

"Training should be in a combination of Native and non-Native environment. Native people should be able to go to university and not be intimidated by the campus, the curriculum or the other people that are there. Indian people are very community oriented and collective in their way of thinking. You have to allow them to come onto the university campus into an Indian community."

6. **Victor Komori - Tanizul Timber Ltd.**

"One of the most difficult problems our people have is getting silviculture contracts. Many Native contractors cannot afford the 10% security deposit required of the successful bidder on a contract."

"Our Band is building a sawmill at Tache and has incorporated a second company under Community Forest Products."

"We employ about 100 people in logging, contracting and forestry. The numbers vary and a lot of the work is seasonal."

7. **Bruce Mack - Cariboo Tribal Council**

"Canim Lake Band applied for a tree farm licence in 1980 and they were informed that there was no additional cut available. They were applying for a smaller cut than Tanizul, about 100 thousand cubic meters. Since that time a greater volume has been awarded to various tenures in that area. So it wasn't a strong basis for the government argument. The reason given to the Band when they went into negotiations was that there was a freeze on TFLs and no new ones were being awarded."

8. **Cameron Beck - Chilcotin-Ulkatcho-Kluskus Nations Tribal Council**

"The Kluskus and Ulkatcho Indian Bands applied for wholistic TFLs three years ago. The question arises, why tenures? There are three basic reasons, financing, management and social and educational concerns and opportunities. On the issue of financing it is much easier to go to the bank and arrange financing if you have a tenure than if you don't. As for management, the Ulkatcho want to protect things like tourism opportunities, caribou habitat, and mushroom ecosystems. They have a much better chance of doing this if they have tenure. People are much more interested in working on a long term basis and being responsible if they can feel they have a stake in the land and resources. As for the social, educational and economic opportunities, the Bands call these Wholistic TFLs which means they are more concerned about issues such as the caribou habitat etc. than is evident in other forms of forest management. We want the opportunity to teach and train the people of our communities towards a goal of long term employment."

"One of our recommendations is that the Task Force support the establishment of the School of Native Forestry at the University of Northern BC."

"Most importantly I would like the Task Force to ensure the Ministry responds to Native applications for TFLs."

"Industry people laugh about the importance of the mushrooms to the Native economy. The Ministry needs to recognize the importance of the mushroom ecosystem, caribou habitat, tourism values and other things valued by the Native Communities. The Native people learn more if the forest is the school rather than the school being a classroom."

9. **Chief Leonard Thomas - Nak'azdli Band**

"Direct contracting with the Ministry of Forests in areas of silviculture would be a positive step in addressing current unemployment statistics."

"Over the last year we have expressed interest in a working partnership with local re-manufacturers of saw logs in our area. We feel that a Joint venture with a local firm already established, will benefit the community. It will also assure that the timber resource will stay in the community no matter who of who owns the timber supply licence."

"It is highly probable that existing licence holders may have to give up some of their quotas to meet our request for timber supply. A Joint venture, if successful, can also open doors for our members to participate in other employment opportunities with forest companies."

"Integration of natural resources can also be applied to integration of human growth by improving social standards by using the forestry economy."

"We recommend that an environmental review board made up of Aboriginal people and other integrated users, such as fish and wildlife, trappers, farmers and ranchers, be mandated to review all future forestry development plans. That all the above mentioned user groups have an equal share in utilizing the resource."

FORT ST. JOHN - NOVEMBER 20, 1990

1. **Dean Dokkie - Headman, Treaty 8 Tribal Association**

"The situation with Louisiana Pacific has been a major concern to the three Bands concerned, West Moberly Band, Saulteau Band and Halfway Band. The company has been taking out the spruce and pine for the last 30 years right in the middle of the Bands hunting and trapping territories without any consultation with the Native communities affected. There has been no consideration of the impact on the communities and no consultation involved with any planning or decisions affecting the areas."

2. **Chief Stewart Cameron - Treaty 8 Tribal Association, Saultau Band**

"95% of our Band members rely on trapping for income."

"The overall land base within Treaty 8 does not enable us to hunt, fish and trap for food. What good is our Treaty if we cannot support ourselves? Our people are going to be here for a long time and we have to be involved in the management of our lands."

3. **Dianne Bigfoot - Vice-Headman, Treaty 8 Tribal Association**

"At this point in time we are just in the early stages of discussing comprehensive resource management plans. We don't know all the Bands concerns yet."

4. **Ken Pendergast - Ministry of Forests**

"Macrolink is an organization that had a contract through Northern Lights College this summer to train Native people in silviculture and provide them with expertise in contracting. The Forest Service was asked to participate, which it did in providing demonstration and practice areas and at the end of the training the Ministry provided four direct contracts to four of the participants. The intent was to give them first hand experience in a real contract situation. It has been a very rewarding experience and was quite successful."

"I would like to see Native people come to the planning table with a mandate by the people they represent, so they can speak for the group and with their concerns clearly defined and understood"

"There is a lot of missing data and I think that is where our planning has gone astray. Nobody started out with ill intentions but if you

only have half the information than the plan is going to be flawed and not satisfy anybody."

5. **Bob Clarke - Canadian Forest Products Limited**

"We would like to think our door is open. I have never had local Bands come in to see us. Not that we've had a bad relationship but there hasn't been a lot of communication. It probably leads to a lot of the problems we are hearing about around the table. I don't doubt the problems exist but if we don't know what the concerns are, how can we address them? I am speaking for my company and the area that I manage "

PORT HARDY - JANUARY 14, 1991

1. **Karl Sturmanis - Kwakuitl District Council**

"Native communities need some long term economic opportunities that you can't really get from short term projects. They may make a person feel individually good for a few months to a year, but looking down the road what is the basis that those communities are going to build on?"

2. **Chief Russell Kwasistala - Kwakuitl District Council**

"My uncles were loggers and the obstacle to them buying the equipment they needed was they couldn't borrow money from the bank because they couldn't use their house for collateral because it was on the Indian Reserve."

"Another thing is that we were knocked out of the forest industry because of the IWA union. Many of my people on the coast were seasonal loggers. They logged until fishing season started and went back to it after fishing was over. Our traditional way of life was seasonal and nomadic and it doesn't fit in with union seniority."

3. **Chief Pat Alfred - Nimpkish Band**

"There is a company, Canfor, that is sitting down with the Gilford Island Band and listening and talking. We will be watching what happens and if it works out, that may be the approach to take."

"We have had successful students in Alert Bay in the forestry program there. They got the training but there was no work for

them when they finished. The Bands aren't funded to make economic development ventures like forestry."

"Why is it that Kingcome Village sits across the river from a logging camp but only one person from the village out of 200 people is employed in logging."

"Why can't the forest companies give the Native people priority in bidding on contracts?

4. **Fred Lowenberger - Forester with International Forest Products Ltd.**

"I would like to show you some of the things we are doing with the Kingcome Band. Jointly we are trying to provide economic opportunities. For a number of years we have been working with one or two Band members who are contractors and provide them with silviculture opportunities."

5. **Wayne Green - Canadian Forest Products Limited.**

"We employ Dan Hanuse, a contractor, who has logged for us for almost 35 years and his son now manages the operation. He is with us full time. We also occasionally hire other smaller contractors."

"If it is an open bid contract we are required to give it to the lowest bidder but we also consider the quality of work and who can do the best job."

NANAIMO - JANUARY 15, 1990

1. **Chief Richard Leo - Kyuquot Band Manager**

"We are involved in the silviculture end of forestry and we have a crew of six who are working on spacing and planting contracts. What we are trying to develop is a working relationship with the Ministry of Forests as well as the private companies. We are developing contacts with industry people with the help of the Ministry. We have identified the areas that have been logged in the traditional Kyuquot territories as shown on these maps. We are saying in Kyuquot that we want to work together to make the silviculture and other things work for our people."

2. **Ron Frank - Professional Forester for Kyuquot Band**

"The Kyuquot Band wants long term employment for its Band members in the silviculture industry. This year the Band was involved through the Community Forestry Program, which gave their crew nine months of continuous employment. Recently, the Band has submitted a brief to the Ministries of Forests requesting more long term planning so there can be ongoing employment in the silviculture sector."

3. **Don McMullan - Chief Forester, Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd.**

"The company as a whole believes that the participation by Native people in forestry resource management should be expanded from the very small base that they currently occupy. We believe we should be doing more to assist those Native people living near or within the tenure operating area to pursue sound economic development opportunities within these areas. The company is looking into training and internship programs which would give the Native peoples in our area the business management skills they need to become self sufficient. We feel we have developed a mutual understanding of each other as neighbours and as different cultures. We see the Native community as business partners and want to develop a skilled labour force we can depend on for a long term basis. There is a need for some kind of joint venture risk program and a business management training fund. We would like to see a government funded business training program set up within our company so we can bring Native people into the company to train them. We have to gain more understanding of the culture of the Native people."

"The joint venture between Fletcher Challenge and the Native people in Mackenzie TSA has been very successful in terms of long term employment. It has involved training and start up participation and in time will become a fully independent business venture largely driven by Native people. To do this kind of enterprise on the coast would be much more difficult because of the requirements of union membership and the conditions of the TFL in that we have to maintain certain proportions of our operations as union and the rest are contract operations."

4. **Paul Pashnik - Ministry of Forests, Port Alberni**

"On the company lands MacMillan Bloedel has a problem with IWA forestry workers in that the company can't contract work out. At Sprout Lake Division we had a wild cat strike on one of our

programs where we were working on our TFL lands. The union was going to shut down the whole operation so we had to pull the contract people out, cancel the contract and pay out the contractors."

5. **Mr. Slugget - District Manager, Ministry of Forests, Campbell River**

"There is presently one forest licence (Hecate Logging Limited) which is 50% owned by the Ehattesaht Indian Band. Although initially there was some problems with this tenure, they are now a well run organization that meets their commitments. This company has the potential to provide Native employment on the West coast of Vancouver Island."

"Over the past year the Ministry of Forests has awarded the Kyuquot Band three silviculture direct contracts with a value of $108,268.00. The work they have been doing is juvenile spacing and brushing on plantations. They have provided a good quality job at competitive prices. The Kyuquot Band is located in an area where there is a huge opportunity for this kind of work as there are many plantations in the area which will require silviculture treatments."

6, **Tony Shebbeare - Council of Forest Industries**

"Over four years ago we put together a province wide Native Task Force for the forest industry. We talked to Government and Native people. The First Nations Council helped us with this. We needed this process to educate ourselves. We recognize the need for Natives to become much more a part of the province in ways that they are comfortable with. We have discovered immense diversity and there is no one solution. The Forestry Community and Native Communities have to start working much more closely together. The Task Force is a good thing and it is getting down to the nitty gritty of what can be done to help "without prejudice to those long term negotiations." It is in both our interests to work together and keep the industry healthy."

VICTORIA - JANUARY 16, 1991

1. **George Harris - Chemainus Tribe and Mid-Island Tribal Council**

"In our Native culture we place extreme importance in the forests. Our culture and our forests cannot be separated. The forest is our cathedral, a place where we do our sacred, spiritual and traditional

ceremonies. The forests provide us with our basic traditional foods such as plants, animals and indirectly fish. These foods can be labeled as health foods that society demands more and more. We do not want planning for just the trees, but we want emphasis on the environment and on values other than economic ones."

"It is clear our people need jobs, but unless our Elders and the Indian People are involved in forest management decisions at the top level there will be no jobs left for anybody, let alone Native People."

"In the state of Washington, Native People are selected from their tribes to the State Forestry Management Board where they have direct decision making with full veto power. In BC, far too often Native People have been given token positions on advisory boards with no real commitment from this province to give Natives full management decision making powers. Right now there is total disagreement between the powers about how to manage the forests. Native People are at the table willing to negotiate and we have yet to be listened to."

2. **Geraldine Shirley - South Island Tribal Council**

"We feel there has been mismanagement of the forests by some of the forest companies in BC and that the government hasn't administered the monies from the forest industries very well. We as Natives have always been concerned with the protection of our forest and fish resources."

"We need to be involved in the management of our forests and we need to clean up the pollution. We want to know if some of the money earned by forestry is going to be used to replenish the resources that have been destroyed through mismanagement of the forests."

3. **John Howard - MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.**

"Our focus is on employment for Natives in the industry. Right now we have no job applications from Native people. We feel that Native students need job interview skills and we are trying to put together a course on this."

"In the Queen Charlottes the Natives have been very successful in the industry and there should be a study on this to find out why they have been so successful compared to other areas of the province. We have one major operation there that is Native dominated and it

is one of our most productive operations from the management down."

VANCOUVER - FEBRUARY 4, 1991

1. **D.J.Munn - District Manager, Ministry of Forests, Mid-Coast Forest Region**

"Native participation in the silviculture program has steadily increased in recent years. There was a recent award of three year contracts to the Nuxalk and Oweekeno Bands."

"The Mid Coast has received excellent cooperation from the Bands in our fire suppression program. Native firefighters have been instrumental in assisting the Ministry in dealing with the serious threat of forest fires. Training and support will continue to be provided in order to develop trained fire fighters and a Unit Crew."

"The Ministry and the Native Bands have put time and energy into creating more opportunities for Native participation in timber harvesting but unfortunately little progress has been made in this area to date."

CHILLIWACK - FEBRUARY 5, 1991

1. **Ken Stenerson - Woodlands Manager, Scott Paper Ltd.**

"Scott Paper has a 35 year record of forestry business activities with Native people. We purchase cottonwood timber from a number of Fraser Valley, Lower Mainland and Upcoast Bands. We currently have a 20 person Native pulpblock cutting crew of men and women working on the Tree Farm here in Chilliwack."

"Scott Paper's oldest formalized Tree Farming Agreement is with the Matsqui Native Band for our cottonwood plantation on Matsqui Island for a 40 year term. We hire Band members where they are available and have the needed skills to do all the forestry activities."

"An example of a cooperative forestry interaction is in the Kingcome Valley where our company consulted the Kingcome Band about the TFL application proposal and the Band supported the companies application in view of the employment opportunities it might provide for Band members. Now there is a cooperative business connection between our TFL #34 and the Kingcome

Bands Woodlot Licence #48 in that they are selling their main crop of cottonwood to Scott Paper and will be providing a range of contracting services to the company in the development of the TFL lands."

2. **Jack Mussel - Skwah Indian Band, Forestry Crew Supervisor**

"We don't have a problem with the IWA because we are on contract to Scott Paper."

"We train our people on the job and do roadside brushing for Hydro as well as the cottonwood contracts."

3. **Bradley Charles - Chehalis Band**

"Our major source of employment are the surrounding mills and logging companies. We are fortunate in having a well timbered reserve which we believed could be a good source of jobs for our Band members if well managed along with our Woodlot Licence. Unfortunately we are unable to carry out harvesting on the Crown Land portion of our Woodlot because Federal Fisheries will not allow it. Their restrictions now make the licence unworkable in its present form. The Band wants to have the Licence moved to another location but cannot get the issue resolved with the Ministry of Forests."

WILLIAMS LAKE - FEBRUARY 15, 1991

1. **Stanley Boyd - Carrier, Chilcotin Tribal Council**

"The government should respond positively to the Ulkatcho and Kluskus Bands' proposals to create Wholistic Tree Farm Licences that would be managed entirely by them. These proposals were made two years ago and would not have interfered with the other licences already in existence in the area but the government refuses to consider them seriously. We have also indicated that we want to enter into a joint venture partnership but no non-Native companies will consider it. We feel that the government is trying to find ways to avoid Native participation in forestry instead of encourage it."

2. **David Zirnhelt - MLA, Williams Lake**

"I think that there are some arguments to be made for treating Bands as agencies for the purpose of referral. It then isn't a hit and miss proposition because you will be going through a consultative process that all parties understand."

"My second point is about how the education system has by and large failed Native people. I think we have to prepare for the future and have our eyes twenty years down the road in making real basic changes in the way Native people are educated and trained."

"I feel one of the big problems we have now is that at the deepest level we don't have trust between the cultures and the representatives of the two cultures. That trust takes a long time to develop."

"There is a great potential in joint ventures as a way to transfer technical and management skills between partners to benefit them both."

"The Forest Service has a continuing trust responsibility for resource management and can assist the parties entering into joint venture relationships because the ministry has all the technical information. I can see this as an extension service."

3. **Bruce Mack - Cariboo Tribal Council**

"A large part of the problem is in a lack of education and a training process in forestry is going to be the solution."

4. **Doug Flintoft - Ministry of Forests**

"We have to be very aggressive in taking our plans out to the bands to discuss what we are doing in their areas. It has to be a developmental process from both sides. We are much more prepared to deal with the Native communities than we have been in the past."

5. **William Chelsea - Cariboo Tribal Council**

"The Bands of the Cariboo Tribal Council have a very strong interest in the concern for the management and tenure of our forest resource. We know the importance of stewardship. First and foremost in our minds has got to be the legacy we leave to future generations. Sustainable development has to be more than our goal, it has to be the first condition of any renewable resource use."

"In the Interior of BC forests are probably our richest natural resource. Our communities are striving for economic self-sufficiency."

"Reduced harvesting and better resource management will also increase and open new opportunities in a wide variety of other areas such as hunting, trapping and diversification of the tourist industry. Such a diversified economy will provide more jobs in a wider variety of fields, will generate more revenue, will be less susceptible to market fluctuations and will be sustainable. Our Bands and our people can and will be a part of that."

"As to the importance of tenure and title, failure to resolve this issue or further delays in the process will lead to prolonged uncertainty and increased risk of direct disruptive action. We simply cannot and will not stand idly by and watch our resources being stripped away from us."

"The settlement of our Land Claims is the single most important issue to be addressed and substantial progress must be made soon. "

"Two of our Bands have been trying to acquire access since 1980 to a more adequate resource base through a TFL. Those applications were rejected but since that time greater volumes of timber have been awarded to other interests. Our reserves are grossly inadequate for any hope of sustainable economic development. As an interim arrangement we propose the transfer to the Band control of approximately 50,000 hectares for each Band."

"We propose co-operative economic ventures. We have a labour force and we hope to have natural resources, but we lack some key professional management and entrepreneurial skills. Such co-operative ventures would take a wide variety of forms such as affirmative action, training and hiring policies and programs at all levels including management. We also see joint ventures in value-added manufacturing."

KAMLOOPS - MARCH 4, 1991

1. **Steve Tolnai - Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.**

"We must look at impediments from both the non-Native and Native population standpoint. This analysis must be honest, and taken at face value. If an honest, indepth analysis is subverted because of excuses and labels such as racist attitudes and discrimination than the mutually beneficial interfaces of the two groups will not progress. Without going into details we must recognize and deal with impediments such as:

1. Current constitutional and legal framework dealing with the Native population.
2. Land Claims and Aboriginal title issues.
3. Delivery and distribution of social and economic amenities to Native people and Bands.
4. Educational standards and deliveries complimentary to the needs and diverse aspirations of Native people.
5. Union seniority structure at all work sites combined with job base shrinkages.
6. The lack of job skills and cultural impediments to accepting industrial discipline."

"We had an apprenticeship program a few years back but for some reason it never seemed to work out. I believe the bureaucratic red tape of having to do everything through Indian Affairs was a real problem."

"If we give preferential treatment to Native groups we have all the other non-Native contractors down our backs. I'm not saying it can't or shouldn't be done but you have to think it out carefully."

2. **Mel Monteith - District Manager, Ministry of Forests, Clearwater**

"This year between the companies and the Forest Service in Clearwater we planted more than 14 million trees. All the contractors and all the workers are coming from outside of this community. The reason for this is local people are not trained to do the work and don't have any equipment. Some who are employed now make $18.00 an hour at the sawmill and don't want to work for anything less. I think training is the biggest factor. Regarding funding, it's been announced that the major areas are going to be spacing, backlog planting and dressing programs over the next 5 years."

3. **Fred Baxter - Regional Manager, Ministry of Forests, Kamloops**

"I don't get a clear vision that companies have a corporate philosophy or policy with respect to its social obligation regarding Natives in their forestry management strategy. I would encourage you to: come up with a company philosophy that is proactive in nature rather than reactive; look at solutions rather than problems we have had in the past; look at the principals of human rights as a culmination for that type of corporate philosophy. We need the big corporations of the world to try to be leaders in this area."

4. **Barry McDougall - Executive Director, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council**

"In our Treaty negotiations with the federal and provincial governments one of the areas that will be addressed for certain is forestry. We expect to have exclusive forest management and integrated resource management. We will begin as soon as possible to try to eliminate the fears people have, particularly industry. It is our intention, in the Shuswap country, that there be a solid working relationship between all parties and there will be no uncertainty as to the future of business operations in our territories. We see Aboriginal title as being no different than Crown title where people do not fear losing their private property."

"Our job now is to look at what type of skills and knowledge do we need to manage the resources. I think we have gone a long way in that respect through the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council fisheries program with the co-operation of Weyerhaeuser and many others. We have completed our forestry management plans on the reserves. We are now looking outside to determine the type of professional skills, technical skills and skilled labour force we require. We are looking at parks and wildlife and our objective is to have an integrated resource management division. In the end we will have a Department of Natural Resources which will concentrate on establishing pilot projects that identify equal opportunity in the Shuswap country."

5 **Dan Donaldson - Ministry of Forests, Lillooet**

"The Ministry was prepared to hire a couple of people under the Native Training Program but they ran into union grievance problems in the Merritt District and we had to put the whole thing on hold."

6 **Dave Archie - Canoe Creek Band**

"There are a lot of areas of silviculture we can go into. We have offers from Ainsworth to train some of our Band members. We have had forestry training courses with 12 in the class. Some of our Band members are on spacing crews working up in 100 Mile."

"We want to incorporate the Indian philosophy into clear cutting and we have discussed it with Ainsworth. This is how we did it, we said, 'Before you make a desert out of our backyard, can we talk to you? They said OK.' So we have presented our case to the pulp

wood area 16 before they built that OSP plant up there. We want to be a part of the process since this is our traditional area, we have lived here for the last 2 to 3 thousand years. The land is our meat market, fish market and we have trainees in the fish and wildlife fields to look after the lakes and restock them. That's where we are coming from."

"They are proposing to build a bridge across the Ganglands area and we have looked at that area and found there is a lot of clear cutting. The ranchers are complaining about their water sheds being destroyed. We decided as of last fall that we'll do something about the situation this summer. We made an agreement with the Chilcotin Tribe that we would protect that area. The neighbouring Bands have agreed that we will prevent the bridge from being built unless we take part in the economic development in the forestry sector. The plan is to blockade both bridges. We are tired of being a welfare state within the federal and provincial systems. Our Band unemployment rate goes up to 90% - 95%. The drop out rate in school is around 95%."

"The problems we have are not just with forestry but we have internal social problems, abuse and substance abuse. Human resource development is the first priority of our Band."

MERRITT - MARCH 5, 1991

1. **Chief Gordon Antoine - Nicola Valley Tribal Council**

"We, the Nicola Valley Tribal Council, recommend the existing tenure holders in the Merritt Timber Supply area be reduced by 25% and that 25% be transferred into a TFL in the name of the 5 Indian Bands in the Nicola Valley. This will be called the Nicola Tribal TFL."

"The Tribal Council insists there be a a total moratorium placed immediately on any additional tenure increases, in any form, in the Merritt Timber Supply area until the Native Tribal TFL is established."

"The Nicola Valley Tribal TFL holders would be able to either build its own converting facilities, owned and operated by the Nicola Valley Tribal Council through a corporation or enter into a Joint venture with an experienced, well managed and financed forest company.

"We further recommend that until the Native TFL is formally agreed to, 25% of all upcoming Ministry of Forests silviculture and fire protection contracts be set aside for Natives only. The terms and conditions to be negotiated immediately for the 1991 season."

2. **Gordon Prest - Nicola Valley Institute of Technology**

"The Nicola Valley Institute of Technology is developing a culturally relevant curriculum that is called the Native Natural Resource Management Program. The primary goals that are essential to the successful establishment of this program are that the program must be culturally relevant for Native people and under Native control, It must be compatible to some degree to current academic and forest industry community mores and be all encompassing and wholistic in perspective."

"The existing forest tenure system does not have the mandate to address Aboriginal rights and Land Claims. The Native community should not be coerced into accepting these tenures as an option for the provincial government to resolve our Aboriginal rights on the Land Claims issue. In any discussion or negotiation with government let us speak of a Tribal Forest which will be designed to meet Native community realities in light of Aboriginal rights."